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EDITORIAL OPINIONS OF THE LEADING JOURNALS UPON CURRENT TOPICS—COMPILED EVERY DAY FOR THE EVENING TELEGRAPH.

The Removal of Throckmorton.

The Military Commanders in the South have responsibilities as heavy as their powers are great; they are masters of the situation, and whatever they do or leave undone will be held to the strictest accountability.

Governor Throckmorton, a Rebel Governor, elected in opposition to the feeble Union party of that State, began his administration by pledging himself to support the laws of the United States, and to aid the policy of reconstruction.

The Lindley murder is one of the notorious instances of Governor Throckmorton's neglect. The Rev. Mr. Lindley was a Union man whose son had been murdered by Rebels, who afterwards were arrested; while attempting to escape two of them were shot by Major Carpenter, and it is said, by Mr. Lindley.

When, in May last, he sought to convince the freedmen that their best friends were in the Conservative party the Colored Union Committee truthfully replied: "You have shown no zeal in bringing to justice the many parties in this State who have committed outrages upon Union men and freedmen."

General Griffin, in command of the State, with an insufficient military force, could not suppress this insurrection. He had the civil authorities against him; he had Governor Throckmorton to thwart him. There were but two ways of restoring order; the first was to send a standing army into Texas; the second to remove Governor Throckmorton.

The President and Reconstruction—Intended Removal of Sheridan.

There seems no longer any doubt as to the intended removal of General Sheridan by the President. All accounts concur in representing it as resolved upon, despite the warnings and remonstrances which the rumor has elicited.

It is difficult to reconcile the President's action in the matter with any intelligent desire for the welfare of the South or the harmony of the Union. The purpose imputed to him in regard to Sheridan would be manifest, and even consistent, if the Administration were intent upon complicating the quarrel

with Congress, intensifying the distrust and hostility entertained by the North towards Mr. Johnson, and adding to the difficulties which overshadow the South.

For the promotion of these objects nothing could be more efficacious than the transfer of Sheridan to another sphere of duty. On any other supposition, it is incomprehensible. To call it statesmanship would be an unpardonable perversion of the term.

We have never been unqualified enthusiasts of General Sheridan. His mode of acting has been more than once the subject of animadversion in these columns; and the tone of some of his despatches has not accorded with current ideas of military discipline.

The country will see in the removal of Sheridan another instance of the President's hostility to the administration of the Reconstruction law—another illustration of his determination, if possible, to thwart the clearly expressed intentions of its authors.

There is more than bad judgment in this case. Practically, there is bad faith. Weeks ago a disposition to remove Sheridan was attributed to the President, and was disclaimed by journals and correspondents in his behalf.

In the presence of this unexpected difficulty, the country will justly anxiously yet hopefully, to General Grant the vital administration of the law. He is invested "with all the powers of suspension, removal, appointment, and detail granted" to district commanders.

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A Trap for General Grant.

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to mention the virtues and claims of Chase, Stanton, Colfax, and Old Ben Wade; but no sooner is the name of Grant heard than there is a sudden change in their manners. It is amusing in such circumstances to hear them deprecate the discussion of the Presidency. They say it is too soon. They urge, then, that the Presidency should be untouched for some time yet, and argue that there are a great many other topics that naturally precede it and ought to be settled first.

One of the more advanced of the Republican organs puts its opposition to Grant on a rather broader basis. It is afraid that, may be, he is not a good enough Republican. It does not know enough of his principles to feel sure of his fidelity or to be satisfied that he is such a true representative of the power and greatness of the nation—in sympathy with the mass of the people as to make him their proper Executive.

Yet we are happy to be able to state that General Grant has a platform, and one that will bear comparison with the platform of any professed politician in the country. His first plank relates to what the American people should do. He believes they should cultivate the soil.

This is the best platform ever laid down since the first invention of that dangerous piece of political machinery. We are aware, however, that it does not tell what the party men want to know, and will not silence their clamor; it gives no indication how they may get at the candidate for their bargains.

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Petroleum in France.

The French are making fresh discoveries of bituminous shale, capable of yielding petroleum by distillation. One of the most recently worked deposits is that of Vagnas, in Ardèche, which has been carefully described by M. L. Simonin.

Congress after the war, and so hostile was General Grant's report deemed to the spirit and policy of that body, and so favorable to the immediate admission of the Southern Representatives, that Mr. Sumner bitterly denounced it, in his place in the Senate, as a "white-washing report," and compared it to an odious Democratic document sent to Congress ten years before palliating the "border ruffian" outrages in Kansas.

General Grant and his well-wishers have reason to suspect something sinister when a party distinguished for impetuous fanaticism and extreme opinions make proffers to a self-contained man of habitual moderation to be their standard-bearer.

This obvious view will enable us to interpret the article on "President-making by Guess" in yesterday's Tribune. "A few politicians by trade," says the Tribune, "are intent on opening the Presidential canvass, bringing forward General Grant as their candidate."

"Time may prove that he is the man for the place; but the question cannot now be determined. We need to understand more clearly the issue on which the contest is to turn, and the views of the rival candidates relative thereto."

"The people are not in the mood for trying an original experiment. They would rather have a President who fully knows his own mind with regard to the political situation, and who has not essentially another mind from theirs."

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